



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
AND AVAILABILITY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Issued: May 22, 2008

**In the Matter of the Application of Rochester Public Utilities for a Route Permit for a
161kV Transmission Line and Substation**

MPUC Docket Number: E299/TL-07-1366

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Energy Security (OES) will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC or the Commission) on the route permit application by Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) to construct a new high voltage electric transmission line and a new substation in Olmsted County, Minnesota.

**Thursday, June 5, 2008 ▪ 6:30 p.m.
Rochester Athletic Club
3100 19th Street NW
Rochester, Minnesota 55901
6:30 p.m.**

Project Description. Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) proposes to a new, approximately 6.6 mile, 161,000 volt (161 kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) on a route that connects to the existing 161 kV line at the Valleyhigh Road/C.R. 4 intersection with 50th Avenue NW, then proceeding due south along and parallel to 50th Avenue to 19th Street NW where the route turns west approximately 1 mile along 19th Street NW to the proposed Westside Substation. From the Westside Substation, the proposed route proceeds north approximately 3.4 miles, sharing the 60th Avenue NW/County Road 104 right-of-way, to the Douglas Trail. The proposed route turns southeasterly and the proposed line would be installed on existing power poles just south of the Douglas Trail corridor for approximately 1.3 miles and terminates at the existing Northern Hills Substation.

Environmental Assessment. Office of Energy Security has completed an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed project. The environmental assessment addresses the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed route. The environmental assessment and other documents relevant to the route permit process are available for review and download on the PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19459> or by contacting the OES staff listed below.

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes 216E.01 to 216E.18, and Minnesota Rules 7849.5500 to 7849.5720. The Honorable Beverly Heydinger, Administrative Law Judge will preside over the hearing.

Public Hearing. Office of Energy Security staff will be present at the hearing to make a brief presentation describing the project, explain the process to be followed, and to introduce documents to be included in the record; including the application, the environmental assessment, and relevant procedural documents. Representatives from RPU will be present to introduce evidence by way of testimony and

exhibits and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of OES staff and RPU representatives, to make oral statements/presentations, and to offer written comments and documents into the record. Members of the public are not required to file any papers in advance of the hearing in order to participate.

The record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Friday, June 13, 2008**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to:

The Honorable Beverly Heydinger
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
email: Beverly.heydinger@state.mn.us

The Administrative Law Judge will provide OES staff a written summary of testimony given at the hearing. The Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

Additional Information. For more information about the process, the project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, please contact:

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Mailing List. Any person may add his or her name to the mailing list maintained by OES for future mailings regarding this project. If you would like to receive notice of the Commission's final decision in this matter please add your name to the mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Sokolski or by registering on the PUC website at:
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19459>.